

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Andreas Kiep

Serial No.: 10/824,252

Filed: April 14, 2004

Docket No.: I434.107.101/IFT984US

Title: DC-DC CONVERTER WITH STABILIZED OUTPUT VOLTAGE (As Amended)

REMARKS

The following remarks are made in response to the Office Action mailed June 3, 2005. Claims 1-18 were rejected. No claims have been amended with this Response. Claims 1-18 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6, 9-13, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by the Miller U.S. Patent No. 6,230,358.

Claim 1 of the present application specifies a DC-DC converter having a series circuit, a changeover switch, a control circuit and means for increasing a resistance in series with the series circuit. The series circuit is formed by an inductor and a capacitor. The changeover switch is configured to **alternately connect an input voltage to the series circuit or for short-circuiting the series circuit**. The control circuit controls the changeover switch in such a way that the changeover switch alternately short-circuits the series circuit or connects it to the input voltage. **A resistance in series with the series circuit is increased at least in the event of the series circuit being short-circuited by means of the changeover switch, if the load current falls by a specific value.** Such a converter is neither taught nor suggested in the art of record.

The Examiner refers to Figure 2 of the cited Miller '358 reference, indicating that it discloses a changeover switch connected in a push-pull configuration with load connected between the series connection of a inductor and capacitor connection. Even if this characterization is accepted, however, the Miller '358 reference still fails to teach or even suggest the converter of claim 1.

The converter of Figure 2 of the Miller '358 reference has first and second switches, each having a diode. If these diodes are analogized to diodes D1 and D2 in Figure 3 of the present application, the third diode of the present application (D3 in Figure 3 and D4 in Figure 4) is not disclosed in the reference. Indeed, in one embodiment, it is this third diode that allows the changeover switch to alternately connect an input voltage to the series circuit or for short-circuiting the series circuit. There is no teaching or suggestion of doing that, or how that could be done, in the art of record.

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Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion in the Miller '358 reference of how a resistance in series with the series circuit is or could be increased at least in the event of the series circuit being short-circuited by means of the changeover switch, if the load current falls by a specific value. As such claim 1, and the claims dependant on it, are allowable over the art of record. In addition, since claim 10, and its dependant claims, specify the similar features as just discussed above for claim 1, the too are allowable.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection to claims 1-4, 6, 9-13, 15, and 16, and request allowance of these claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Miller U.S. Patent No. 6,230,358.

The Examiner rejected claims 7-9 and 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Miller U.S. Patent No. 6,230,358 in view of Watanabe U.S. Patent No. 6,710,582.

Because claims 5, 7-9, 14, and 16-19 are dependant claims that depend from the independent claims 1 and 10, which are believed to be in condition for allowance as detailed above, these dependant claims are also allowable for the reasons given above.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection to claims 5, 7-9, 14, and 16-19, and request allowance of these claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-18 are in form for allowance and are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-18 is respectfully requested.

No fees are required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16(b)(c). However, if such fees are required, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0471.

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The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the below-listed telephone numbers to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed Paul P. Kempf at Telephone No. (612) 767-2502, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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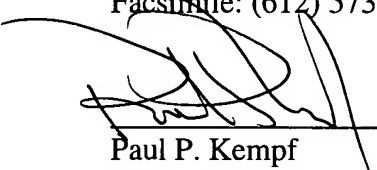
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope address to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 3rd day of October, 2005.

By 
Name: Paul P. Kempf